

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide having ~~consisting of~~ an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of~~:

- (a) ~~an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2;~~
- (b) ~~an amino acid sequence of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;~~
- (c) ~~an amino acid sequence of an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said ortholog is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3; and~~
- (d) ~~a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids.~~

2. (Currently Amended) An isolated peptide comprising ~~protease having~~ an amino acid sequence comprising ~~selected from the group consisting of~~:

- (a) ~~an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2;~~
- (b) ~~an amino acid sequence of an allelic variant of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said allelic variant is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3;~~
- (c) ~~an amino acid sequence of an ortholog of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said ortholog is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the opposite strand of a nucleic acid molecule shown in SEQ ID NOS:1 or 3; and~~
- (d) ~~a fragment of an amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragment comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acids.~~

Claims 3-23. (Withdrawn)

Claims 20-21. (Canceled)

22. (Withdrawn)

23. (Withdrawn)

24. (New) A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 and a carrier.

25. (New) A composition comprising the protease of claim 2 and a carrier.

26. (New) An isolated protease consisting of an amino acid sequence having at least 99% sequence identity to SEQ ID NO:2.

27. (New) A composition comprising the protease of claim 26 and a carrier.